

EARTHWAYS[®]



Earthways is a publication of LAMBTON WILDLIFE INCORPORATED-P.O. BOX 681 SARNIA, ON N7T 7J7
Gordon Catterson-Editor Modris Zandbergs-Distribution **October 2010**
Cheryl Veary-Webmaster Website: www.lambtonwildlife.com

All indoor programs are open to the public and are held on the last Monday of the month from September to November and January to March at the YMCA Learning & Career Centre 660 Oakdale Avenue at 7:30 pm. Articles in Earthways represent the views of the author and not necessarily the views of Lambton Wildlife Inc.

Indoor Program

October 25th, 2010

The Urban Coyote

Unfortunately due to illness this program scheduled for October had to be switched with Jeremy McNeil's talk on the monarch butterfly. Lesley Sampson, wildlife educator and co-founder of Coyote Watch Canada, has studied coyotes for 15 years. She will help us better understand and appreciate these creatures, teaching us not to fear them but to admire them as self reliant hunters. There will be samples of scat, skulls and audio howls with explanations of their meaning.

November 29th 2010

Pollination and Pollinators

Vicki Beard, founding member of Pollination Guelph and a City Councillor will tell us about turning a garbage dump into a bloom filled haven for birds, butterflies and other pollinating insects through the vision the Guelph Pollination Initiative had for a local 100 acre landfill site. Vicki received the 2007 North American Advocate Award for this.

January 31, 2011

Natural Treasures of Lambton County

An educational film, commissioned by Lambton Wildlife, written and produced by Larry Cornelis will be shown. Larry will introduce it and explain how and why it was made. Afterwards, Larry and the videographer, Danny Alexander, will tell about their experiences and answer questions.

February 28th 2011

Canaries in the Coalmine

Mike Cadman is a songbird biologist with the Canadian Wildlife Service and was the Coordinator of The Atlas of Breeding Birds of Ontario (2001-2005). The atlas documents how bird distributions and abundances changed between 1981-1985 and 2001-2005. It illustrates the patterns of increase and decrease, expansion and retraction, providing insight into the challenges faced by our birds and what those indicate about our environment. Join us for an entertaining presentation that will both inform and inspire.

Outdoor Program

Birding the Lake Huron Flyway

Saturday, October 30, 2010

Meet: 10:00 am at the Kettle Point Plaza (Points Preference Plaza)

Excellent birding opportunities are explored in the Kettle Point to Grand Bend area.

Leader: Alf Rider – 519-786-4213

Christmas Bird Count

Saturday, December 18, 2010

Join in the fun of the annual CBC.

Register ahead so that arrangements can be made to cover all territories. Participants meet at the Pinery Visitor Centre afterwards to tally results and have a chili dinner.

Coordinator: Peter Chapman – 828-3064

*Down River Ducks

Sunday, February 6, 2011

Meet: 9:00 am at Centennial park (Dow People Place parking)

View wintering ducks, raptors, swans and gulls along the St. Clair river. Lunch at local restaurant in Sombra.

Leader: Paul Carter – 344-2571

*Winter Outing (Snowshoeing)

Saturday, February 12, 2011

Meet: 9:00 am at the Brights Grove Plaza (near Shoppers)

Try snowshoeing and search for nature (tracking & barking) and earn an outdoor lunch on an outdoor fire. Check January Earthways for recipe ingredients to bring.

Leader: Brenda Kulon – 869-2833

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Greetings From The President

A beautiful Saturday morning in September, ideal weather for a bike ride. And that was a really good thing because it was the day of the first Lambton Wildlife sanctioned Bike Rally.

About ten people gathered at the Modeland and Cathcart entrance to the Howard Watson Nature Trail for the ride out to Mike Weir Park where event organizer and originator Larry Cornelis had cold drinks and treats awaiting us.

It was not just a ride along the trail, however, as Larry give each of us a questionnaire to fill out based upon what we could see and find as we headed on our way. To further spur our interest, Larry awarded some neat nature prizes to the top three people who came up with the most correct answers. Luckily for me, Barb and John Teasell were part of the group so I could crib off their acknowledged expertise of plants and trees. Barb even brought her field

guide with her in case further investigation was needed. Interestingly, the first question asked at the entrance to the trail was to identify a three-leaf plant you most definitely want to avoid. Of course it was poison ivy and Larry had some vivid reminders on his arms and legs just why you do not want to come into contact with this plant.

I have walked and bicycled the trail many times but to be honest never paid that much attention to the great variety of plants and trees to be seen along it. The rally was an excellent way to address that shortfall. At various points, to answer the questions, you had to stop and look around and really become aware of your surroundings.

Some of the plants and trees we saw besides poison ivy were turkeyfoot, mitten tree, and two species of sumac, sun flowers, wild cucumber, calaba bean tree, black locust, Virginia creeper, and hop tree, all answers to the questions posed by Larry.

Did you know that the official tree of Ontario is the Eastern white pine? Well if you sit on the bench at the Blackwell Station site on the trail and look to the south you will see several examples.

From the Modeland Road entrance to Mike Weir Park is about five kilometers. With all the stops along the way it was not too physically challenging. Larry even had his trailer attached to his jeep in case of breakdown or in the event one did not feel up to bicycling back to town and a couple of people took advantage of it.

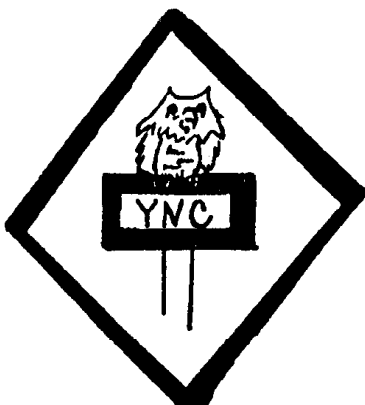
It was also the morning of Art in the Park and after finishing up at the rally a few hearty souls continued their bicycling experience by biking into Bright's Grove before returning home. The rally was enjoyed by all the participants. The weather cooperated, we got some fresh air and exercise (although the cookie treats might have negated that to some extent) learned some neat things, and perhaps best of all, got outside to commune with nature and to appreciate what a treasure we have in the Howard Watson Nature Trail. We should be very proud that a number of Lambton Wildlife members played a very prominent part in seeing that this nature jewel was preserved for the enjoyment of the people of Lambton County.

Some other things of note; Lesley Sampson of Coyote Watch Canada was unable to appear at the September Indoor Meeting. We have re-scheduled her appearance to October. Also, we extend our thanks and appreciation to Dr. Jeremy McNeil for filling the gap created by Lesley's illness by bringing forward his interesting and informative presentation "Following the Flight of the Monarch" to September.

Finally, parents and grandparents of children of Young Naturalist age should take note that Young Nats leader Melissa Levi, in conjunction with PR Chair Janet Bremner, has arranged a special "Reptiles at Risk" program Friday, November 12, 2010 at 7:30 PM at the Kiwanis Centre in Sarnia. Please spread the word about this event. The public is encouraged to attend with their children. There is no admission charge.

So, until next time, stay safe.

Richard Maxfield



Upcoming Events:

Young Naturalists (age 6-11)

Oct. 23rd: Canatara Park from 1:00-3:00PM

Topic: Water – where does it come from & why do we need it?

J r. Conservationists (age 12-16)

Oct. 24th: @ privately owned woodlot – Manduamin Rd. from 10:00 – 3:00PM

Introduction for forest inventory & resource management practices

Also please note the Reptile at Risk program described in the President's message.

Young Naturalist Group:

_____ Summary of the groups:

_____ Ages 6 to 11 years old.

This is our core Young Naturalist Group; the focus is on enjoying our local wild spaces while building a scientific understanding of the world around us. This group is fun and enjoyable and also provides an introduction of Environmental Education.

This group meets outdoors once per month in Canatara Park. All meetings include a guided hike, games, crafts & time for ecosystem exploration. Children are monitored by an experienced guide during all meetings.

Junior Conservationists:

Ages 12 to 16 years old.

This program provides an introduction to environmental field studies for young adults interested in conservation as a hobby or a career!

This group meets at least once per month and performs positive conservation

ACTIONS – helping to protect, preserve, or rehabilitate natural spaces and their inhabitants.

Meetings will last 6 to 8 hours – a full day's work!!

Youth will be accompanied by at least one instructor during all meetings.

We are still accepting new members for the 2010-2011 season!

Contact Melissa Levi @ insektivi@hotmail.com for info.

I received the following message from Kimberly MacKenzie of Ontario Nature and thought it worthwhile to pass it on to LWI members. Ed.

As you may have heard, the CBC recently ran a series of reports about irresponsible fundraising practices among a minority of Canadian charities. It is critical to all of us at Ontario Nature that you know that our fundraising practices are transparent and fully accessible to you. As Director of Development, I am available to speak to you about any concerns you may have about your donations.

While we are not in a position to comment on the specific news coverage or on the work of other charities, we agree that donors need to do their homework when it comes to deciding which organizations to support. Ontario Nature is a member of Imagine Canada's Ethical Code program, and we encourage you to use this organization as a resource to help you make sound decisions about your donations.

Below is important information that is always available to you:

- Our charitable registered number is 10737 8952 RR0001. You can use this number to gather information about us from the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA).
- Our audited Financial Statements are available to you. Please email me if you would like a copy.
- The cost of fundraising fluctuates yearly depending on revenue and fundraising activities. However, our expenses are always well within the guidelines set by the CRA.
- Ontario Nature has limited capacity and does use external vendors to help us with our direct mail and planned giving programs. These vendors are paid on a per project basis and are not offered a percentage of funds raised or a commission.

Of course, all business activities cost money, including fundraising. In order to reduce our costs we promote monthly giving as our preferred method of donating. We also encourage you to share information about us with your friends and colleagues to help reduce the cost of acquiring new donors.

Your support is essential to protecting wild species and wild spaces in Ontario. Without you, this important work simply could not happen. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any concerns at all or would like to discuss our fundraising practices in more detail. Talking to people who love nature in Ontario is my favourite part of this job. I'd love to hear from you.

Yours for nature in Ontario,

Kimberley MacKenzie

Certified Fundraising Executive & Director of Development,
Ontario Nature

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Office: 416-444-8419 ext 236

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Unintended Consequences:

Over 100 years ago the American philosopher Henry David Thoreau in his *On the Duty of Civil Disobedience* wrote, "if one were to judge legislators wholly by the effects of their actions, and not partly by their intentions, they would deserve to be classed and punished with those mischievous persons who put obstructions on the railroads". It was true then and remains true today.

Recently we have heard a lot about "unintended consequences", and see examples of it all the time. "How did that happen?" The use of water has been drastically reduced but the cost has sky rocketed. Part of this is because of necessary sewer and treatment improvements, but part of it is the "unintended consequences" mentioned.

Many years ago in an effort to conserve water City Council decided to install water meters in the City of Sarnia (Sarnia Township had had them for years), and charge people according to their consumption, and sure enough usage dropped. As council was congratulating itself the water management people said "Ahem, we are not covering our costs!" Council said, "That's easily fixed", and increased rates again. What happened? Consumption dropped even further and the financial shortfall increased. On it went until recently council began to talk about how they could encourage people to use MORE water, perhaps by allowing watering on every day.

I recently read an article in the *National Post* by Andrew Gilligan about wind turbines in Denmark. Denmark apparently was the first European country to embrace wind technology and did so so enthusiastically that today about 20% of their power comes from wind turbines. Green activists saw it as an ideal model to follow. However recently there has been a backlash against more turbines as people objected to their power bills, now some of the highest in Europe. The largest of the governing coalition, a left wing party, is cutting back on the subsidies being paid to support the wind farm industry which cannot survive without them. They have also agreed that any future wind farms must be built offshore which dramatically increases maintenance costs. Meanwhile Denmark, which has surplus capacity, is selling electricity to Germany at a loss. Thus Danish taxpayers are subsidizing Germany. I recently noticed that the Ontario government was also musing about reducing subsidies, something that triggered some talk of retaliatory law suits by the industry. There is also a plan to place wind turbines off shore in Lake Ontario.

Now to many environmentalists the idea of dramatically higher power bills is to be welcomed as it means people will cut back on their power consumption reducing the need for more generating capacity. However there are some problems with this. First of all many people are struggling now to pay their utility bills and substantially higher power bills are a big problem for them. One has only to read the letters in the newspaper from people complaining about the high cost of water and electricity. Not because of usage but because of the attendant charges to pay for the upgrades and the reduced usage occasioned by the higher water rates. As well Ontario needs to attract industry to replace the jobs lost in the automotive industry. To do so it

is important that electricity rates remain competitive. Both Michigan and Ohio are forging ahead with coal fired plants which produce power much more cheaply than any other form of generation and whose air shed is Ontario. They, of course, are trying to attract precisely the same industries that Ontario wants. One way politicians try to deal with this is to subsidize industry and lower income people from general taxes, but all that does is to mask the true costs of electricity.

The Province recently installed "smart" meters on all homes in Ontario at a cost of over a billion dollars to encourage people to change their power consumption habits. Many people did but found out that their power costs did not decrease but in fact went up. Now Dalton McGuinty is musing about possibly changing the rate structure to cause people who change their energy consumption pattern to actually save money. More people will change and consumption will drop. However in the example of the water in Sarnia the system will find it is not collecting enough revenue to cover costs and rates will have to increase, causing still less consumption. Perhaps we will find provincial politicians in a few years wondering, "How do we get people to increase their power usage?"

The problem with electricity is that it cannot be stored and must be used as it is generated. Excess capacity represents an inefficient system with attendant costs. However much we may wish a sort of steady state generating system the truth is that generating capacity and transmission lines must be constantly upgraded and renewed at considerable cost.

So, what to do? My own view is that Ontario needs to examine natural gas and clean coal technology with a more open mind. As a chemical engineer I know that both can be designed to be environmentally acceptable and they both represent the most efficient and low cost electrical generating systems. At one time I thought that nuclear generation was the answer and the Ontario government is openly discussing this approach, but now think differently. Not from any great concern about nuclear accidents which can be handled with proper design, but because of cost. The evidence so far is that while once built and operated they produce very efficiently, but the construction and maintenance costs are horrific. If that can be overcome then it probably does represent a good alternative, but until then I remain skeptical. Hydro generation has negative environmental consequences and besides Ontario has limited ability to take advantage of this source. Wind and solar energy while useful are not the answer. John Constable who is the director of the London-based Renewable Energy Foundation and is quoted in the article mentioned above, called the Danish experience "an outbreak of realism." He said "Wind is not a bad technology. It's just a lot more limited than people thought in the past." Conservation is also of course important and much more can be done there. We just need to not repeat the Sarnia water experience in our provincial electrical system.

As Thoreau said we need to judge politicians on their intent, and not on outcomes. One wished however they would do a better job of connecting the dots.

Gord Catterson

September Indoor:

Due to a scheduling change the September and October speakers were switched for the indoor meeting on September 27th. Instead of Lesley Sampson speaking on coyotes we were treated to Dr. Jeremy McNeil of UWO talking about the monarch butterfly. This is a topic almost everyone is interested in as it is easily the most recognizable of our butterflies, and most people are aware of their amazing migration to and from Mexico each year.

Jeremy was introduced by Brenda Kulon, our own butterfly expert, who said Dr. McNeil travelled the world speaking on insects, and particularly on monarchs. Dr. McNeil is currently associated with UWO but during his talk mentioned that he had taught for 30 years at Laval in Quebec and is thus fluently bilingual.

Jeremy commenced by saying that he specializes in three different insect areas. First is insect ecology and he mentioned the specific problem of the collapse of the honey bee, which is a huge threat to cultivated crops which depend on them for pollination. Secondly he works in the area of biological control trying to develop agents that use plant diseases natural enemies in order to reduce or eliminate pesticides.

Finally he works in the area of insect migrations and said that the monarch migration is the most famous of these. He said that monarch larvae are monophagous, meaning that they feed on a single host plant, in this case milkweed, where they also lay their eggs so that a food source is readily available. He mentioned that milkweed is also listed as a noxious weed which is a problem for the butterfly that needs it as a food source. Apparently it is poisonous to cows who eat it and is often eradicated. The plant contains cardiac glycoside which can cause cardiac arrest. Interestingly it is also used in the treatment of congestive heart failure. Another case of the importance of dosage when discussing poisons.

He also said that the latex that milkweed exudes is actually a defense mechanism which protects the plant by gumming up the insects mouth. The larva uses it's own defense mechanism by first cutting across the leaf vein and allowing the plant to drain before eating. He said that the monarch larvae is brightly coloured which is also a defense mechanism that announces, "Beware, I am poisonous!" This is a not uncommon signal in nature. The larvae eat and store the poison as a protection against predators which soon learn to leave them alone. The viceroy butterfly mimics the monarch to protect itself, although the viceroy also contains some rather nasty chemicals. Jeremy mentioned that the milkweed aphid does the same thing.

He then went on to say that the amazing migration of the monarch to the Sierra Chincua Butterfly Reserve (Santuario de la Mariposa Monarco) in Mexico is aided by the prevailing winds which 60% of the time blow from north to south in the fall and in the spring blow 70% of the time from south to north. He also said that studies have shown that they are guided by the sun and that they are able to adjust as the sun moves during the day. If they are kept in darkness and released such that they are either 6 hours ahead or 6 hours delayed they become disoriented and instead of

moving in a predominantly south west direction they will instead move predominantly north west or south east. They take over a month to travel from Canada to Mexico and do so in order to reduce the energy required. He said they tend to move in sort of short hops, ascending to a certain height and then letting the wind propel them. He said this is necessary since there is not a lot of food for them and they need all their fat to survive, and they spend their time in Mexico in a state similar to hibernation. They do need water however and drink from a nearby stream to replenish moisture.

He then showed some stunning photographs of absolutely huge numbers of monarchs clinging to tree branches such that they appeared to be trees covered in large arrays of flowers. He mentioned that in order to access the reserve you must hire a guide and can rent horses to carry you up from the nearby town of Anganguero to the reserve. He said being at a fairly high altitude it becomes very cold overnight and frost can occur. However as the sun comes up it warms up and the butterflies begin to move down to drink. He said there are two tree species that predominate, a fir and a cedar and that the area they occupy is very specific measuring less than a hectare.

Dr. McNeil went on to say that while the butterflies traveling south make the complete journey the return trip is made by several generations. They move from Mexico to Texas, reproduce, thence Texas to New York where they again reproduce and finally from New York to Canada. Very rarely a butterfly is found that has completed the round trip. The mystery is how this 3rd generation knows how to get back to Mexico.

The next question is how do they know when to stop. The science seems to suggest that there are chemical messages (pheromones) left on the trees by previous generations that the butterflies respond to. Where do these chemicals come from? Probably from the milkweed or other plants they feed on on the way south. They appear to be purine alkaloids and it has to persist over several generations although the science is not yet settled. Experiments carried out using branches that have been painted with wax from roosting trees and branches that have not show that the insects prefer the coated ones. There is also evidence that they also use visual clues and are attracted to trees already occupied. The clue to them starting back north seems to be triggered by increasing daylight.

Dr. McNeil also related a story about a scientist who fed pollen from transgenic corn (genetically modified) to a group of monarchs who did not survive. This made big headlines in Europe where "frankenfoods" are banned, as proof that such crops are dangerous. In fact the study was faulty in that the insects had no choice but to eat the pollen as there was nothing else. However a subsequent study disproved the faulty one. This of course was ignored in Europe as it didn't fit with the prevailing prejudice, a sadly all too common occurrence when science disproves what is seen as received wisdom. In spite of the fact that Canadian have been consuming genetically modified foods for decades Europeans remain steadfast in their belief that

they are dangerous, and in fact some people in Africa are starving because of it.

Dr. McNeil also talked briefly about other monarch populations in such places as New Zealand, Australia, Hawaii, the west coast of the U.S.A. and the Caribbean. Some of these populations migrate while others don't need to, but none of them to as spectacular a degree as the Canadian/Mexico ones.

Dr. Jeremy McNeil was a hugely entertaining speaker with a fascinating subject and a large crowd was very appreciative of his talk. He was thanked by Joan Difruscia

Gord Catterson.

LWI recently entered into an agreement with the Sarnia Community Foundation to establish a legacy fund for the purpose of protecting environmentally significant properties in Sarnia-Lambton. This was in response to an initiative by the Ontario Land Trust Alliance, of which LWI is a member, and the Community Foundations of Canada. The Sarnia Community Foundation was established in 1982 by then Mayor Marcel Saddy and Andy Brandt who shepherded the Sarnia Foundation Act through the legislature. The Foundation's mandate is to improve the quality of life in Sarnia-Lambton. Donated funds are pooled and the interest generated donated to various community initiatives while the principal remains to generate additional monies for donation. Visit their website at

www.sarniacommunityfoundation.ca for more information.

LWI encourages members to consider making donations to the Lambton Wildlife Legacy Fund.

Environmental Legacy Partnership to Protect Sarnia-Lambton's Natural Heritage

Sarnia/Lambton County, ON – Area residents can now play a direct role in the long-term protection of naturally significant and environmentally sensitive properties in Sarnia-Lambton, by donating to a new legacy fund created by the Sarnia Community Foundation in partnership with Lambton Wildlife Inc.

Funds generated by the Community Foundation's new Lambton Wildlife Legacy Fund will be used by the local naturalists club to maintain existing and future lands under its stewardship. The fund is being established in conjunction with the Ontario Land Trust Alliance and the Community Foundations of Canada.

"With the creation of the Lambton Wildlife Legacy Fund, local residents now have a direct and very personal opportunity to ensure that their community's natural heritage remains protected for future generations to enjoy," said Community Foundation Chair Les McDermott. "What better legacy to leave than one that clearly demonstrates a respect for our environment?"

Lambton Wildlife President Richard Maxfield said his club was excited to have the Community Foundation's active support for its long-standing efforts to preserve important natural environments and to help all citizens learn about and experience their natural surroundings. Lambton

Wildlife currently cares for approximately 104 hectares (257 ac.), with an interest in adding other naturally significant areas in the future.

"Donations to the Community Foundation fund will further strengthen our efforts to protect important natural landscapes, including rare plants and wildlife, making sure that they continue to perform their environmental roles and can be appreciated by our community for many years to come," said Maxfield.

The Sarnia Community Foundation is a local registered charity that provides personalized opportunities for individuals and families to recognize encourage and sustain the many facets of the Sarnia-Lambton community that they treasure. With the generosity of an increasing number of donors, the Foundation offers annual financial support to a wide range of community interests, including the arts and culture, children and youth, education, the environment, health care and social service programs.

For further information, please contact:

Jane Anema, Executive Director

Sarnia Community Foundation

Phone: 519-332-2588

Email: ed@sarniacommunityfoundation.ca



I received this from John Degroot back in July. It is still timely as fall is an excellent time to plant (or transplant) trees. The ground is still warm and there is still time for the roots to establish themselves. Ed.

Subject: Benefits of a Shade Tree

Garden Clippings for July 10, 2010

In spite of the heat, my son Ben and I decided to bike from the city centre to our house in the sticks. We equipped ourselves with ambition and a bottle of Gatorade each. Our first drink stop was under the shade of a maple tree on Lansdowne Ave.

There were no shade trees to be found in the commercial stretch of Confederation St between Murphy Rd and Modeland Rd, so we found relief from the heat under a canopy at the Union Hall. Stop number three was under the shade of an oak near Procor Drive. Our last drink break was under the shade of a huge oak in Ferguson's front yard on Confederation St near Telfer Rd.

Our bike ride in the heat taught us what we already knew: shade trees provide relief from sun and heat.

The other benefits for shade trees are less obvious and also involve the environment. Trees improve air quality, moderate climate, conserve water and provide a home for wildlife. Trees absorb energy from the sun in summer. By

the time winter arrives, leaves fall off the trees, allowing the sun's rays to hit our homes.

Properly placed trees also reduce the impact of wind. In Sarnia Lambton, where west winds prevail and north winds are particularly cold, large growing coniferous trees placed north and west of a home can significantly reduce heating bills.

In urban areas where parking lots, roads and buildings are the norm, shade trees serve to moderate the heat island effect. The leaves of trees absorb carbon dioxide from the air to form carbohydrates that assist in the plant's growth. Through this process they also absorb air pollutants and release clean oxygen.

Birds, squirrels and insects of all kinds find habitat in trees. They need trees as a food source and serve as a haven for protection from predators. While a tree grows, leaves are plentiful and eventually fall and begin to decompose. Organic matter is produced, soil is improved and we begin to experience the cycle that we see in less disturbed wooded areas.

Trees provide a calming effect and make life more enjoyable. Imagine for a moment what Sarnia Lakeview Cemetery would look like if there were no trees. Or imagine how 18 holes of golf would feel if there were no trees dotting the landscape.

There is much truth to the old adage "the best time to plant a tree is several years ago." The second best time is today.

At the May board meeting Melissa Levi passed on a request from Gabe Comozzi of ON for LWI to be a sponsor for this Youth Summit. Accordingly the board approved a donation of \$300 in support of the event. Ed.

Youth Summit on Biodiversity

Submitted by Nathan Klassen, Stratford Field Naturalists
 On June 4-6, 65 students (ages 13-17) from across Ontario joined together for the Ontario Nature Youth Summit. We had the opportunity to learn from brilliant minds such as scientist and former astronaut, Roberta Bondar. We participated in interactive workshops and over the course of the

summit, gathered a new perspective about nature around us. The camp took place at Cedar Glen in the Oak Ridges Moraine. With valleys stretching over 160km and multiple habitats in a concentrated area, it was the perfect place to discuss biodiversity. In the workshops, we explored taking action for environmental change and using leadership skills to make it possible. One example of this was a workshop we attended led by Gary Sault, an aboriginal elder from Mississauga. We examined the connections between our community and the natural world. Native plants such as wild ginger, plantain, red clover and staghorn sumac were, and still are, used to make medicine. I also attended workshops about using birds as indicators for ecosystem health, learning how to make youth/adult partnerships for leadership, and learning about leadership itself. Three students from Perth County attended the summit: Derek Craig, a grade 9 student from Stratford and son of Val & Mike Craig, fellow SFN members Ben Davey, a grade 8 student from Mitchell, and myself, a grade 8 student also from Mitchell. We all had a blast, and will look forward to next year.

ON AGM:

The board requested that a couple of items associated with the recent ON AGM held in Sarnia be communicated to the membership.

Firstly that LWI made a donation of copies of the booklet A Guide to the Natural Areas of Lambton County to all registered attendees. Secondly that co-hosting the conference paid a monetary dividend as well the recognition associated with the conference. LWI had previously made a grant of \$500 and a (forgivable) loan of a further \$500. In return LWI had the \$500 loan repaid, a grant of \$430 to the Young Naturalists and a profit sharing payment of \$1897.00. A bit of a bonus to a very successful conference. Ed.

----- CUT AND MAIL -----

To Help us serve you better

Please circle or check (optional)

Age Groups: Under 12 12-20 20-40 40-60
 60-80 over 80 or M.Y.O.B.

Interests: Birds Flowers Animals Insects
 Fungi Fish Trees
 Conservation Environment
 Other _____

Activities: Hiking Camping Bike Riding
 Canoeing Walking Talking
 Writing Cross country skiing
 Other _____

Might be willing to:

- Serve on Committee
- Chair Committee
- Serve on Board
- Act as LWI Representative
- Come to Indoor Meetings
- Go on Outings
- Participate in Slide Show
- Be an Advisor

Other Information you might wish to share with LWI

Need transportation to meetings _____

Special skills or work experience _____

Earthways:

Some of you have probably noticed a slightly different look to the recent issues of Earthways. In fact I have switched the desktop publishing software that I was using to a newer one. This will be the third version since we first started publishing Earthways electronically many years ago.

When Ross MacMillan first began the process he used software whose name I no longer remember. When I became involved in about 1999 Ross had just purchased software called Adobe PageMaker and this is what we have used for lo these many years. It was reasonably straightforward and once mastered fairly easy to use. However it ran on an Apple operating system called 8.6. and when Apple introduced its new O/S X operating system its days were numbered. The cursed computer people are constantly changing either their operating systems (software), machines (hardware) or applications (programs). It is almost impossible to keep up and when you complain their standard answer is always, "What's the problem, just upgrade". Yes, at a cost of several thousand dollars.

However Apple got so much flak that they introduced a machine called the eMac. This was a kind of schizophrenic machine in that it ran both the 8.6 applications and the newer O/S X, so I bought one and was able to continue to use my older applications including PageMaker. Safe for awhile.

However the eMac was never really comfortable in the dual role and Adobe stopped supporting the PageMaker application. To upgrade to the replacement version would cost \$500. Thus I decided to upgrade to a new iMac. I purchased a suite of applications called iWork which has a word processing/publishing application called Pages. It was fairly inexpensive (\$125) versus the O/S X PageMaker replacement. I have spent the past several months trying to learn it and have finally done so (more or less). The instruction manual is 250 pages, is not very user friendly and the software is quite complex. However after much cursing, hair pulling and general bad temper I am now able to put together Earthways. The nature of the software is such that the finished product is a little different looking, but should serve for the foreseeable future. However remember that for computer types the foreseeable future is measured in months rather than years.

Gord Catterson

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Doug Winch	Board member

Deadline for November issue is

Friday, November 5th 2010

Leave material in mailbox at

502 Roosevelt Drive or

email to

gpcatt@xcelco.on.ca

CUT AND MAIL

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Mail to : Lambton Wildlife Inc. Box 681 SARNIA, ON N7T 7J7

Name: _____

Address _____

Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____ Date : _____ Earthways via email? Yes _____ No _____

Membership fees: Single \$20 Family \$25 Young Naturalist \$15 (\$5 ea. add'l child) (Circle one)

